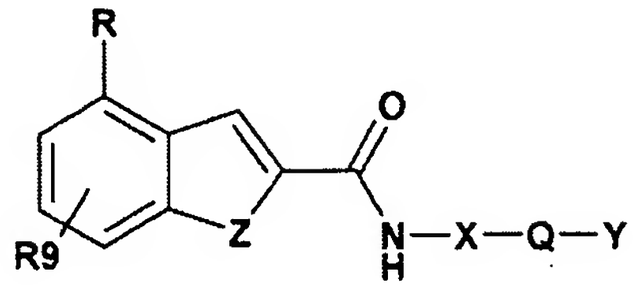
Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~, or ester thereof~~:



(I)

Wherein:

Z is NR_3;

R is ~~selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, an optionally substituted~~ C_1-C_7 alkoxy, optionally substituted with a furyl, benzofuryl, phenyl or thiazolyl; each of which is optionally substituted with halo; linear, branched or cyclic lower alkyl; or with a linear, branched or cyclic lower alkoxy; ~~C_2-C_7 alkenoxy, cycloalkyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, aryl-C_1-C_7 alkoxy or heteroaryl-C_1-C_7 alkoxy, an optionally substituted C_1-C_7 alkyl or C_2-C_7 alkenyl, an optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl or an optionally substituted aryl-C_1-C_7 alkyl group~~;

R9 is H;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of H and C_1-C_7 alkyl;

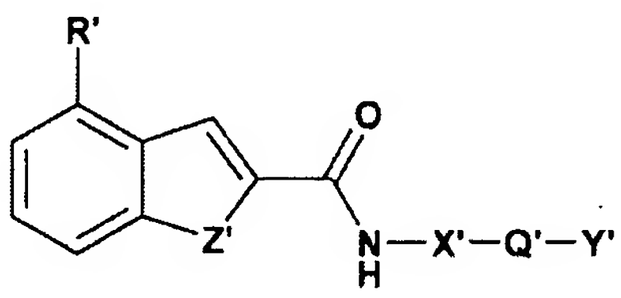
X is a C_3-C_{18} cycloalkyl or phenyl; each of which may be optionally substituted with halogen hydroxyl, C_1-C_7 alkyl;

Q is selected from the group consisting of: $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-$, $-CH_2-NH-$, $-CH(CH_3)-NH-$, $-CH_2-N(CH_3)-$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_2OH)-$ or $-CH(CH_3)-NH(CH_3)-$;

Y is piperidinyl, azepanyl, azocanyl, tetrahydropyranyl or 8-aza-bicyclo[3.2.1]oct-8-yl, each of which is optionally substituted with hydroxy, amino, halo, C_1-C_7 alkyl;

~~the optional substituent or substituents on R being independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_7 alkyl, mono or di- C_1-C_7 alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, mono or di- C_1-C_7 alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, carboxy, C_1-C_7 alkoxy, C_3-C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_3-C_{18} heterocycloalkyl, C_1-C_7 alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_7 alkoxycarbonyl, nitryl, aryl; all of which, except halogen, are independently optionally substituted by one or more substituents, selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, C_1-C_7 alkyl, mono or di- C_1-C_7 alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, mono or di- C_1-C_7 alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, carboxy, C_1-C_7 alkoxy, C_3-C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_3-C_{18} heterocycloalkyl, C_1-C_7 alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_7 alkoxycarbonyl, nitryl, aryl;~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (II), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~, or ester thereof~~:



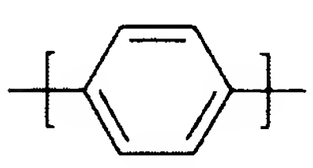
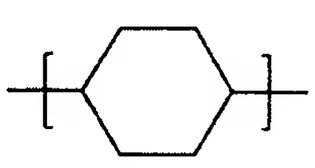
(II)

wherein:

Z' is NH;

R' is C_1-C_7 alkoxy, optionally substituted with a furyl, benzofuryl, phenyl or thiazolyl; each of which is optionally substituted with halo; linear, branched or cyclic lower alkyl; or with a linear, branched or cyclic lower alkoxy; ~~hydroxy or an optionally substituted C_1-C_7 alkoxy~~;

X' is selected from the group consisting of:


, and 
;

Q' is selected from the group consisting of: $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-$, $-CH_2-NH-$, $-CH(CH_3)-NH-$, $-CH_2-N(CH_3)-$, $-CH_2-CH(CH_2OH)-$ or $-CH(CH_3)-NH(CH_3)-$;

Y' is piperidinyl, azepanyl, azocanyl, tetrahydropyranyl, 8-aza-bicyclo[3.2.1]oct-8-yl, each of which is optionally substituted with hydroxy, amino, halo, C_1-C_7alkyl;

~~the optional substituent or substituents on R' being independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_7 alkyl, mono or di- C_1-C_7 alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, mono or di- C_1-C_7 alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, carboxy, C_1-C_7 alkoxy, C_3-C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_3-C_{18} heterocycloalkyl, C_1-C_7 alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_7 alkoxycarbonyl, nitryl, aryl; all of which, except halogen, are independently optionally substituted by one or more substituents, selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, C_1-C_7 alkyl, mono or di C_1-C_7 alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, mono or di lower alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, carboxy, C_1-C_7 alkoxy, C_3-C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_3-C_{18} heterocycloalkyl, C_1-C_7 alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_7 alkoxycarbonyl, nitryl, aryl;~~.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 selected from:

4-Isobutoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid [4-(2-azepan-1-yl-ethyl)-phenyl]-amide

4-Isobutoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid (4-{[methyl-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yl)-amino]-methyl}-cyclohexyl)-amide

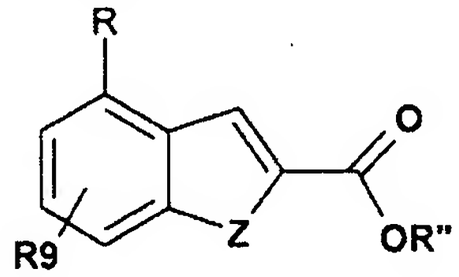
4-Isobutoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid (4-{[methyl-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yl)-amino]-methyl}-phenyl)-amide

4-Isobutoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid (4-{(R)-1-[methyl-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yl)-amino]-ethyl}-phenyl)-amide.

4-5 (cancelled)

6. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) comprising:

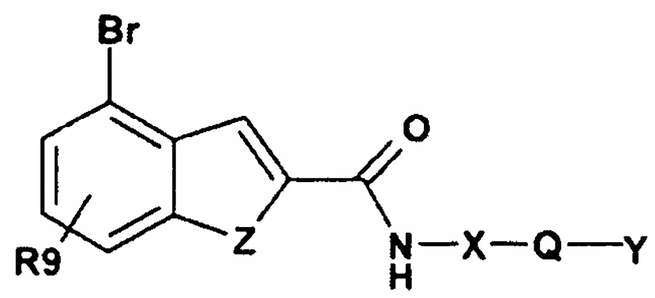
(a) reacting a compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein R" is H or a lower alkyl group, with a compound of formula NH_2-X-Q-Y, the groups R, R9, Z, X, Q and Y being as defined in claim 1; or

~~(d)~~(b) for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) wherein R is an optionally substituted aryl group, appropriately substituting the Br group in a compound of formula (VI) for said substituted aryl group:



(VI)

wherein Z, R9, X, Q and Y are as earlier defined;

and recovering the resultant compounds of formula (I) in free or salt form.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound obtainable by the process of claim ~~5~~ 6.

8. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

9-10 (Cancelled).

11. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting chemokine receptors or macrophage protein or of reducing inflammation in a subject in need of such treatment, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

12. (Withdrawn) A method of treating an inflammatory or autoimmune disease or condition, comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of treating HIV infection or AIDS, comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Withdrawn) A method of treating an inflammatory or autoimmune disease or condition or HIV or AIDS, comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, in combination with one or more agents selected from: methotrexate, an anti-TNF agent, an anti-IL-1 agent, a nucleoside or non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, an HIV protease inhibitor, fusion inhibitor and antiretroviral agent.